

State of South Dakota

NINETIETH SESSION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2015

972W0702

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

Introduced by: Senators Lederman, Brown, Heinert, Rave, Solano, and Sutton and
Representatives Bolin, Anderson, Dryden, Hawley, Mickelson, Ring, Stalzer,
Stevens, Verchio, Westra, and Wiik

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Condemning the growing anti-Semitism in certain
2 countries and extending an invitation to Jewish families from around the world to South
3 Dakota.

4 WHEREAS, Judaism as a faith has been in existence for over three thousand years with over
5 eleven million people practicing worldwide; and

6 WHEREAS, people of the Jewish faith have recently suffered inexcusable anti-Semitic
7 attacks, including a tragic attack when a gunman walked into a kosher market in Paris, taking
8 hostages, killing four people, and sending shock and fear through the Jewish community; and

9 WHEREAS, in addition to the Paris attack, numerous Jewish grave stones have been
10 desecrated, many Jewish stores have been attacked, and immeasurable amounts of Jewish
11 graffiti has been scrawled all over Paris; and

12 WHEREAS, growing anti-Semitism is not exclusive to France, with a violent attack on a
13 Jewish film director and a Jewish security guard in Copenhagen, Denmark, and over one
14 thousand one hundred anti-Semitic incidences recorded last year in Britain alone; and



1 WHEREAS, these anti-Semitic aggressions have caused fear and terror to a degree that has
2 caused a mass exodus of Jewish immigrants leaving France, with around 2,000 Jews leaving
3 France every year until 2013, when it grew to 3,400 Jews, and doubling in 2014 when over
4 7,000 Jews left the country; and

5 WHEREAS, South Dakotans believe no person of any faith should have to fear for their
6 well-being due to his or her beliefs, and the free exercise of religion is an inalienable human
7 right; and

8 WHEREAS, the first Jews to settle in South Dakota found opportunity with the United
9 States Homestead Act, seeking the freedoms of unsettled grasslands; and

10 WHEREAS, South Dakotans know the value of practicing a faith, support strong
11 convictions of freedom of religion, and appreciate a diversity of faith in the state; and

12 WHEREAS, South Dakota offers an acceptance of faith, friendly people, and a safe and
13 welcoming place to raise a family; and

14 WHEREAS, a flourishing Jewish community in the state will increase diversity, bring about
15 worldly perspectives, and allow South Dakotans to develop meaningful and long-lasting
16 relationships with people of a different faith:

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Ninetieth Legislature of the
18 State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that this Legislature,
19 and the good citizens of South Dakota, denounce and condemn the growing anti-Semitism in
20 many European and Middle-Eastern countries and encourage the swift and attentive action of
21 the leaders of each respective country in dealing with and eliminating the dangerous
22 discrimination Jews face every single day; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that South Dakota extends a warm welcome to both French
24 Jews, and those of the Jewish faith experiencing discrimination or danger around the world, to

- 1 join the good people of South Dakota and enjoy a safe, welcomed, and prosperous life in this
- 2 beautiful state.